



**MICHIGAN**  
**CHAMBER**  
*of Commerce*

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Members of the Michigan House Committee on Natural Resources  
From: Jason Geer, Director of Energy & Environmental Policy  
Subject: Senate Bill 163  
Date: June 4, 2013

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The purpose of this memo is to inform you that the Michigan Chamber of Commerce **supports Senate Bill 163** as passed by the Senate.

SB 163 will provide needed regulatory improvements to Michigan's wetlands program while also bringing our state into compliance with the Clean Water Act. Michigan has the distinction of being one of only two states in the country that has authority from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to run a state wetlands program. The regulatory authority Michigan possesses provides us a distinct competitive advantage because our state program enables us to approve permits much faster than the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers. The cost to the business community will be tremendous if we lose the ability to run a state wetlands program.

It is clear to Members of the Michigan Chamber that retaining the wetlands program is critical to ensuring that our state maintains a competitive business environment. We urge your support of this important legislation.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce urges you to **Vote YES on SB 163.**

If you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me at 517-371-2100.